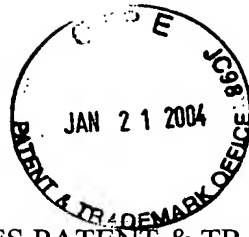


DOCKET NO: 230112US26



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOMOYO YAMAGUCHI, ET AL. : EXAMINER:
SERIAL NO: 10/607,537 :
FILED: JUNE 27, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT:
FOR: PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to an action on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 26 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 27 of this paper.